

CLUB STATION
K6SON

Short Skip

The Newsletter of

Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc.

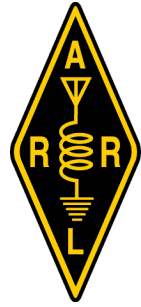
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REPEATER STATION
W6SON

Volume 39, Number 6

June 2014



June SCRA Update

by Pat Coyle, KG6JSL
SCRA President

Public Service events in May went well. Wine Country Century, the premier event of the Santa Rosa Cycling Club has

something like 2000 riders all over the west and north counties supported by the Club public service operators. There were a few cases of road rash, scrapes and bruises, and a broken collar bone but otherwise no major incidents. The Human Race, a more low-key event also went well with our operators providing radio support. The Terrible Two, a brutal 200 mile ride, will be on June 21 and interested operators should contact Craig, K6XLT@sonic.net. Public Service events are not only fun to work, but involve SCRA in the community in the finest amateur radio tradition.

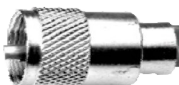
Ham radio's premier event, Field Day, will be held on June 28-29, at Youth Community Park, 1725 Fulton Road, Santa Rosa, across the street from Piner High. This event will display ham radio at its best, with contesting on the HF bands, 10 and 2 meters rigs, a building class for a portable 2 meter antenna, and our world famous BBQ Saturday afternoon. A big feature of Field Day is the Get on the Air (GOTA) station where any person, licensed or not, can, well, get on the air under the supervision of experienced operators. This station provides a great opportunity for non-hams, and less experienced operators, to learn the joys of high level amateur radio operation. The June meeting program will be devoted to Field Day by Chairman Brian, N6IYY.

Bill Hillendahl, KH6GJV, the ARRL Section Manager, presented an outstanding program on Contesting at the May meeting. The techniques he presented can be practiced at Field Day and hopefully members will be inspired to pursue contesting on their own. There really is more to ham radio than 2 meter activities and participating in contesting, either as a contester or as just a casual operator is an excellent way to increase radio skills and more fully enjoy the hobby.

The Club's mini-DXpedition to A.W.Way Park in Humboldt County has been postponed from July 11-13 to August 15-17, due to scheduling conflicts so adjust your schedule accordingly. Charlie, KZ6T, will have more on this event next month.

So that's it in a nutshell for June. The Weekly Blog will keep everyone updated on events, and I hope everyone can make the June meeting, and participate in Field Day. Brian, N6IYY, will have full particulars at the June meeting.

Pat, KG6JSL





2014 Club Officers

President	Patrick Coyle coylaw@sonic.net	KG6JSL
Vice President	John Felton	KE5RI
Treasurer	Mike Von der Porten	AD6YB
Secretary	Dave Harrison	W6IBC
Director	Doug Payne Jeff Tonelli	KF6LMB KI6PBF
Past President	Charlie Sikes	KZ6T

Committee Lineup/Contacts

Activities	Darryl Paule, KI6MSP	ki6msp@arrl.net
ARES Liaison	Charlie Sikes, KZ6T	kz6t@arrl.net
DX/Contest	Kevin Alt, K6BSG	kalt@ieee.org
Education	Jeff Tonelli, KI6PBF	jeff.tonelli@gmx.com
Emergency Services	Charlie Sikes, KZ6T	kz6t@arrl.net
Field Day	Brian Torr, N6IY	n6iyy@arrl.net
License Trustee	John Felton, KE5RI	jrfke5ri@aol.com
Media	Sutter Laird, KI6ZON	ki6zon@me.com
Membership	Mike Von der Porten, AD6YB	mikevdpc@aim.com
Merchandise	Iola Beckley, KK6HRE	cope@srcity.org
Programs	John Felton, KE5RI	jrfke5ri@aol.com
Public Service	Craig Gaevent, K6XLT	k6xlt@sonic.net
Raffle	John Chavez, KG6PEP	kg6pep@arrl.net
Refreshments	Robert Jones, WA6NIV	wa6niv@arrl.net
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 SCRA Web site <http://www.sonomacountyradioamateurs.com>

Tuesday Night Net

Remember to check in to the SCRA net each Tuesday evening on the 147.315+(PL 88.5) repeater at 7:00 PM. Announcements are made of upcoming SCRA and other amateur radio activities in the broadcast.

Short Skip Advertising Rates

Business Cards	\$12 per month
1st Quarter Column	\$13 per month
Each Additional Quarter Column	\$4 per month
Full page (one side)	\$35 per month
Pre-printed inserts (each)	\$35 per month

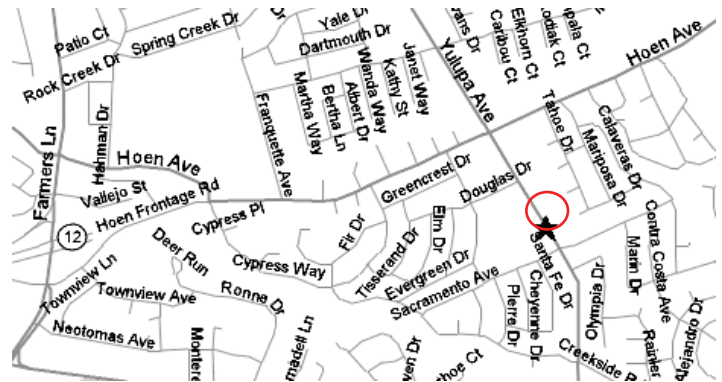
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SCRA Club Meetings

The club normally meets the first Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm. Exceptions are holidays or other big events.

Meeting location:
 Luther Burbank Art & Garden Center
 2050 Yulupa Avenue
 Santa Rosa, CA



All are welcome!

Please join us at our next meeting. Anyone interested in Amateur Radio may be eligible for membership. A membership application is included in this newsletter. For more information, contact any SCRA officer, director or member.

Hungry before the meeting?

Join us for dinner! We Meet at IHOP restaurant, 4th and Famers Lane, Santa Rosa.
 People start showing up at 5:15 PM.
 No RSVP is required.

See you there every month except December.

If you are not getting the ARRL San Francisco Section news by e-mail and you are an ARRL member, be sure to subscribe under your Members Only information or go to this Web site:

<http://www.arrl.org/Groups/view/san-francisco>





Sonoma County Radio Amateurs Membership Meeting

April 2, 2014

Minutes

Meeting called to order at 7:05 PM by President Pat KG6JSL. A quorum was present. Officers and Directors were introduced. New members and visitors included Harvey KK6KQZ and Tom KJ6MKI.

Program: Radio Frequency Interference: what it is, how to trace it, and some ways to correct or minimize it. Presentation was by SCRA Vice President John Felton KE5RI and was very well received by those in attendance.

Business Meeting began at 8:35PM after a break. Minutes of February 2014 membership meeting were approved on motion by Dennis KI6REO, second by Ned KI6REQ. Treasurer Mike AD6YB reported on the general financial status of the club and promised more detail at the May meeting.

Director Doug KF6LMB reported that the new rosters are being handed out to paid-up members at the meeting.

Past President Charlie KZ6T reported that the group-purchase of ARRL message forms had been successful, and that a few remaining pads of forms are available at \$5.00 per pad.

Activities Chair Darryl KI6MSP reported that on April 11th from 3:30 PM to 7PM, the club will have a booth at the Family Life Magazine's Family Camping Expo at Wells Fargo Center. He also reported that on April 12th SCRA would have a booth demonstrating HF radio at the Lake Sonoma 50 event at Warm Springs Dam to local Boy Scouts. He also mentioned that he was going to participate in a Sonoma 100 bicycle event, but that this public service event is not sponsored by SCRA. He is personally seeking volunteers to help out.

Repeater Committee Chair Jack K6ROW reported that progress is being made on the voter receiver improvement. Trustee John KE5RI reported on the outage of the Castle Rock 2 Meter repeater and his work in fixing that issue. IRLP sponsor Charlie KZ6T reported on the status of the club's 7103 IRLP node and referred the

members to the IRLP website www.irlp.net for status of our node and other nodes.

Education Chair Jeff KI6PBF reported that a Technician class will be held this weekend. April 4-6. He hopes to begin classes for General and Extra at the end of April, but has not had any sign ups. If there are not sufficient sign ups, the club-sponsored upgrade path will be via individual mentoring rather than classes.

Public Service Chair Craig K6XLT reported that he has sufficient volunteers for the Lake Sonoma 50 at Lake Sonoma for April 11th. Rest stop and Net Control slots are still open for Wine Country Century on May 3rd. The MS Walk on May 4th and the Human Race on May 10th will be handled by Sutter KI6ZON. Terrible Two will be June 21st. Send Craig an email if you want to volunteer: k6xlt@sonic.net.

Emergency Communications Chair Charlie KZ6T reported that ARES held an emergency message handling training session on Saturday March 29th involving multiple served agencies and sites being activated. Forty seven items of traffic were passed during the exercise. Charlie also advised that the ARRL message forms could be used during training exercises, but such use was not required.

Membership Chair Mike AD6YB reported that the 2014 Club Roster is published and being distributed, and that Harvey KK6KQZ has become a new Club member.

VE Liaison Brian N6IYY reported the next open exam session would be Saturday May 17th and that there would be a session this Sunday following the Technician Class.

Raffle Chair John KG6PEP offered a 50-50 split and a portable solar charger as the prizes for this evening.

Merchandise Chair Iola KK6HRE reported that all of the badges and other items paid for by members had been distributed. She has a variety of Club Logo garments available for purchase.

NARCC: Trustee John KE5RI cannot attend the annual meeting. Dave W6IBC may attend in John's place.

Continued on next page.





4/2/14 meeting minutes, continued.

Dave reported that NARCC has now taken out liability insurance to protect its officers from lawsuits and related expenses.

There was no old business.

In New Business the fact that the Club web site was not currently available was discussed. The membership recommended that the Board of Directors consider moving Web Page hosting to Sonic.Net. W6IBC will contact Sonic to obtain further information for the Board.

Net Control procedures were discussed with suggestions on how the net should be conducted and improved.

Net Control Assignments for April

4/8 Craig K6XLT, Charlie KZ6T and Pat KG6JSL from Santa Rosa EOC
 4/15 Darryl KI6MSP
 4/22 Dave W6IBC
 4/29 Pat KG6JSL
 5/6 Brian N6IYY

Following Raffle drawing, meeting was adjourned at 9:03 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
 David Harrison W6IBC
 Secretary

Sonoma County Radio Amateurs Membership Meeting

May 7, 2014
 Minutes

Meeting called to order at 7:04 PM by President Pat KG6JSL. A quorum was present. Officers and Directors were introduced. A visitor, Darvin DeShazer, was present because of the effective promotional work of Activities Chair Darryl KI6MSP.

Our program: "How to be a good operator at Field Day", presented by ARRL San Francisco Section Manager Bill Hillendahl KH6GJV, was very well received

by the membership. Bill provided excellent tips and examples for good (and bad) operating techniques, and concluded his presentation with a "table top" contest exercise involving those present. He then presented ARRL book awards to two of the top achievers in the exercise..

Business Meeting began at 8:25PM after a break.

Treasurer Mike AD6YB reported on the general financial status of the club and noted that receipts were presently in excess of expenditures. There were no other officer or director reports. April 2014 minutes will be published in the next Short Skip.

Activities Chair Darryl KI6MSP reported that the SCRA booth at the April 11th Family Life Magazine's Family Camping Expo at Wells Fargo Center was very successful, with 6 or 7 signups for a future technician class. He also reported that the SCRA booth demonstrating HF radio to Boy Scouts at the Lake Sonoma 50 event at Warm Springs Dam went very well. He is looking for volunteers for the SCRA information booth for Field Day 2014, and he has not heard back from the Sonoma County Fair,

Repeater Committee Chair Jack K6ROW reported that all of the repeaters are up and working, although there are some lingering problems at Castle Rock. Continuing progress is being made on the voter receiver improvement.

Education Chair Jeff KI6PBF reported that a Technician class will be held in August, date to be announced and posted on the web site.

Public Service Chair Craig K6XLT reported that the Lake Sonoma 50 event went very well, as did the Wine Country Century on May 3rd. The Human Race on May 10th will be handled by Sutter KI6ZON. Terrible Two will be June 21st. Send Craig an email if you want to volunteer: k6xlt@sonic.net.

Emergency Communications Chair Charlie KZ6T and President Pat KG6JSL reported that SCRA and ARES will jointly hold a radio programming class at 9AM on

Continued on next page.





5/7/14 meeting minutes, continued

May 31st at the Salvation Army headquarters, 93 Stony Circle, Santa Rosa. Mentors will be available. Attendees should bring their radios and their manuals.

Field Day Chair Brian N6IYY has scheduled two additional planning events, one at 10AM on May 18th at Youth Community Park, and another focused on maintaining and assembling the club's TH-6 beam antenna at John Breckenridge's home in Windsor on June 14th at 10AM. Setup will be on Friday June 27th at 5PM. VHF antennas will be put up Saturday Morning. The event begins at 11AM and runs for 24 hours. Saturday dinner will have a donation of \$7.00 per person. Building project is a three element 2 meter beam. The June SCRA meeting will finalize plans and information. Redwood Empire Live Steamers will be sharing Youth Park with SCRA on Field Day weekend.

VE Liaison Brian N6IYY reported the next open exam session would be Saturday May 17th and that there would be a session this Sunday following the Technician Class.

Merchandise Chair Iola KK6HRE reported that she still has a small supply of Club Logo Tee shirts, but wants to order more, especially in "small" size which have not been ordered before. On motion by Dennis KI6REO, seconded by Wells KK6EXC, membership approved spending up to \$750.00 for Club Logo Tee shirts in a variety of sizes including "small", and colors. Iola also displayed several bright yellow vests and discussed acquiring a supply, pending further research into vendors and costs.

Old Business: Charlie KZ6T has postponed any additional group buy activities until June. Dave W6IBC will contact Sonic in preparation for moving the web site from CDS.

New Business: Any changes to the 2014 Roster should be sent to President Pat who will include them in the on-line Tuesday blog so members can update their rosters.

Net Control Assignments for May:

5/13 Iola KK6HRE
5/20 Dennis KI6REO

5/27 Steve KI6TUR
6/3 Charlie KZ6T

With no further business, meeting adjourned at 9:09 PM

Respectfully submitted,
David Harrison W6IBC
Secretary

Sonoma County Radio Amateurs Board of Directors Meeting

May 14, 2014
Minutes

Regular Board Meeting called to order by President Pat KG6JSL at 6:07 PM at IHOP Restaurant, Fourth St at Farmers Lane, Santa Rosa. Board Members in attendance included President Pat KG6JSL, Vice President John KE5RI, Treasurer Mike AD6YB, Secretary Dave W6IBC, and Director Doug KF6LMB. Director Jeff KI6PBF and Past President Charlie KZ6T were absent. Other SCRA members attending included Brian N6IYY, John WB6FRZ, Darryl KI6MSP, Iola KK6HRE, Dennis KI6REO, Ned KI6REQ, Jack K6ROW, and Jim KI6REK.

Minutes of April 2014 Regular Meeting of Board were approved on motion by Doug KF6LMB, second by John KE5RI. Treasurer Mike AD6YB provided an updated statement of club actual figures with a comparison to 2014 budget. Currently, income exceeds expenses by \$746.55, and the club remains solvent.

Picnic: Jim KI6REK reported on the club picnic planned for September 13, 2014. Lee Dibble KE6EAQ has offered his home as the site of the picnic. Jim is asking for volunteers for heading up radio activities, such as a portable HF station and fox hunt.

Mini-DXpedition: This event has been rescheduled to August 14-17 because of member schedule conflicts.

Activities: Darryl KI6MSP reported that a club pop-up canopy had a broken leg. A replacement for \$60.00 was approved on motion by Doug KF6LMB, second

Continued on next page.



**5/14/14 board meeting minutes, continued.**

by John KE5RI. The subject of the table drape resulted in an extended discussion. A motion by John KE5RI, second by Dave W6IBC, to rescind the prior board approval for purchase of a table drape for \$195.00 was defeated, John KE5RI and Doug KF6LMB voting for, and Dave W6IBC and Mike AD6YB voting against. Pat KG6JSL breaking a tie vote, voted against.

Education: John WB6FRZ reported that he is in the process of updating the Technician Class study materials to cover the new question pool being released on July 1st.

Emergency Services: Pat KG6JSL and Charlie KZ6T are spearheading a radio programming class set for May 31st, jointly sponsored by ARES and SCRA. Pat asked for mentor volunteers to help with this event which is open to all radio amateurs.

Field Day: Brian N6IIY reported that SCRA has still not yet received written approval from Santa Rosa on the application for using Youth Park. A second planning session is set for May 18th at Youth Community Park at 10am. Brian demonstrated a prototype 2 meter 2 element beam antenna for the construction project. SCRA will be sharing Youth Park with the Redwood Empire Live Steamers on Field Day weekend.

Website: Dave W6IBC reported that only Sonic customers are offered web hosting services by Sonic. Since SCRA is not a Sonic customer as such, it is not clear that Sonic would provide website hosting to the club under current Sonic rules. Mike AD6YB proposed establishing a portion of the website to remember silent keys. He will discuss further with Webmaster Sutter KI6ZON and report back to the board.

Membership: Mike AD6YB reported that he will be updating the membership master list to cover additions over the last 45 days. Mike also presented a written proposal in favor of establishing lifetime memberships in SCRA. Following board discussion, no formal action was taken.

Merchandise: Iola KK6HRE displayed a bright yellow-green vest having a club patch sewn on by her daughter. Lettering on the back would be heat transfer at \$12 per unit. She proposed personalizing the lettering to

include ham call and will present the idea to the membership with a projected cost of about \$25 per unit.

Public Service: On motion by Dave W6IBC, second by Doug KF6LMB the board approved adding the Santa Rosa marathon on August 24th to this year's list of public service events. Craig K6XLT will organize, and Pat KG6JSL will act as Comm. Boss

Repeater: Jack K6ROW reported ongoing progress with the voter project. John KE5RI reported that the Castle Rock 2 meter repeater lacks sensitivity, and he

suspects a bad antenna or feed line and will investigate further. A procedure for approving requests from outside groups seeking to use the SCRA repeater for events was discussed. The President will approve such requests after consulting with other activity leaders within the club.

Old Business: The club inventory is still not completed.

New Business: SCRA Member Deb KK6HRD has been accepted to attend the ARRL Teachers Institute this summer. The club needs to amend its insurance coverage to add English Hill Telecom LLC to the liability policy in place of Bruce Donecker. Doug KF6LMB observed that the on-line club calendar had too much information when printed out as a hard copy.

With no further business the meeting adjourned at 7:57 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Harrison W6IBC
Secretary





Club Outreach

June 2014

The various new and continuing activities of SCRA are generating a lot of interest in amateur radio. From getting their license, becoming new club members. Family Life Magazine has invited the club to participate in a couple of their events. The first event was the Ilearn fair at the Wells Fargo Center. There, we demonstrated CW, the Theremin, and helmet cam. There was a lot of interest and about four or five people signed up for the technician class.

After the Ilearn fair was the Camping Expo. At this event there was a DX demonstration. Since we, amateur radio operators, go camping and DXing. There were a few signups for the technician class.

There is a new program that I'm developing with Deborah KK6HRD. Deborah was in a recent technician class, and asked about an amateur radio club for Santa Rosa Middle School.

So far I've taught the students how to solder. They have also learned about radio frequency, some of the components that make up a radio.

Recently we have started building crystal radio kits. These kits are using a blue razor blade.

Deborah is going to the ARRL's Teacher Institute. The Teachers Institute is on wireless technology, learning how to teach the technology to her students.

Check out the activities page on www.socoham.org for the current events.

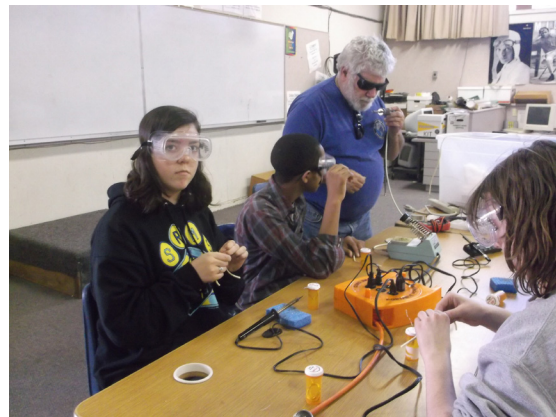
I'd also like 5-6 volunteers to work the PIO booth for Field Day, as well as set up Friday about 1700. You can email me at ki6msp@arrl.net

73

Darryl
KI6MSP

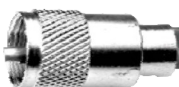
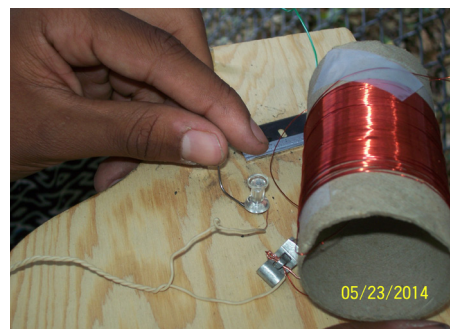
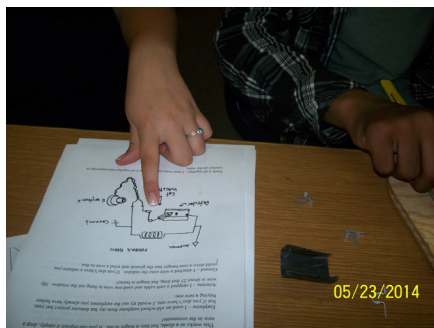
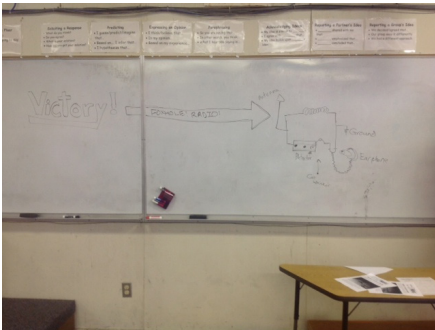
Soldering Class Photos

McKenzie, Coby, Autum and Mirim.





Foxhole Radio Construction Photos





CONTEST CORNER

by Kevin Alt, K6BSG

Hello testers. Highlight for May is the CQ WW CW contest on Memorial Day weekend. Also a couple of contests for Earth-Moon-Earth propagation. Happy DX'ing!

2 May – **NS Weekly Sprint CW**, 160-20 meters. See: www.ncccsprint.com.

3 May – **Microwave Spring Sprint** – all modes, 902 MHz and up. See: sites.google.com/site/springvhfupsprints.

3 May – **QRP To The Field** – CW, 40-10 meters. See: www.zianet.com/qrp.

3 May – **New England QSO Party** – all modes, 80-10 meters. See: www.neqp.org.

3-4 May – **2 GHz and Up World Wide Contest** – all modes. See: www.ham-radio.com/sbms.

3-4 May – **Worldwide EME Contest** – FM/CW, 3.4 GHz. See: www.dubus.org.

3-4 May – **Ten-Ten Spring CW Contest** – CW, 10 meters. See: www.ten-ten.org.

3-4 May – **ARI International DX Contest** – all modes, 160-10 meters. See: www.ari.it.

3-4 May – **7th Area QSO Party** – all modes, 160-2 meters. See: 7qp.org.

3-4 May – **Indiana QSO Party** – SSB/CW, 160-10 meters. See: www.hdxcc.org/inqp.

4 May – **OK1WC Memorial Contest** – SSB/CW, 80-40 meters. See: www.memorial-ok1wc.cz.

6 May – **ARS Spartan Sprint** – CW, 80-10 meters. See: www.arsqrp.blogspot.com.

10-11 May – **Alessandro Volta RTTY DX Contest** – digital, 80-10 meters. See: www.contestvolta.com.

10-11 May – **Armed Forces Comm's Test** – SSB/digital, 160-10 meters. See: www.netcom.army.mil/mars.

10-11 May – **CQ-M International DX Contest** – SSB/CW, 160-10 meters. See: www.cq-m.ru.

10-11 May – **Portuguese Navy Day** – SSB/CW, 80-10 meters. See: www.nra.pt.

10-11 May – **Nevada Mustang Roundup** – all modes, 160-6 meters. See: www.nvqsoparty.info.

10-11 May – **FISTS Spring Sprint** – CW, 80-10 meters. See: www.fists.org/operating.html#sprints.

10-11 May – **50 MHz Spring Sprint** – all modes, 6 meters. See: sites.google.com/site/springvhfupsprints.

11-12 May – **Straight Key Weekend Sprintathon** – CW, 160-6 meters. See: www.skccgroup.com.

14 May – **CWops Monthly Mini-CWT Tests** – CW, 160-10 meters. See: www.cwops.org/cwt.html.

17 May – **Portuguese Navy Day** – digital, 80-10 meters. See: www.nra.pt.

17 May – **Feld-Hell Hamvention Sprint** – digital, 160-10 meters. See: www.feldhellclub.org.

17-18 May – **His Majesty King of Spain Contest** – CW, 160-10 meters. See: concursos.ure.es/en.

17-18 May – **Baltic Contest** – SSB/CW, 80 meters. See: www.lrsf.it/bcontest/english/rules_html.htm.

18 May – **Worked All Britain** – 7 MHz Phone – SSB, 40 meters. See: wab.intermip.net.

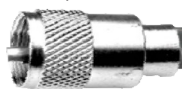
19 May – **Run For the Bacon** – CW, 160-10 meters. See: www.fqprp.org.

22 May – **NAQCC Monthly QRP Sprint** – CW, 80-20 meters. See: naqcc.info.

24-25 May – **Worldwide EME Contest** – Phone/CW, 10 GHz+. See: www.dubus.org.

24-25 May – **CQ WW WPX Contest** – CW, 160-10 meters. See: www.cqwpw.com.

Continued on next page.





Contest Corner, continued

25 May – **QRP ARCI Hoot Owl Sprint** – CW, 80-10 meters. See: www.qrparci.org/contests.

26-27 May – **MI QRP Memorial Day CW Sprint** – CW, 160-10 meters. See: www.miqrp.org.

31 May – **Full Day of Feld-Hell Contest** – digital, 160-10 meters. See: www.feldhellclub.org.

31 May – 1 June – **Worldwide EME Contest** – Phone/CW, 1.2 GHz. See: www.dubus.org.

New Swap Net

SCRA is now sponsoring a SwapNet. This is a chance for amateur operators to sell or trade apparatus normally used in an amateur station to other amateur operators so long as it is not done commercially or on a regular basis.

The new SwapNet will occur on the last Wednesday of each month at 7:00PM on the SCRA VHF repeater, 147.315 + PL88.5. Your net control operators are Frank NQ6E, Gabe KK6HQW, and Charlie KZ6T.

To list items for sale or post a Wanted ad, you have two methods to choose from:

1. Email us a short description of the item that includes the price, method of payment, and your preferred contact method. Please email information to kz6t@arrl.net. We will read the information on the Net. If you include a photo, we will have it posted up to the SCRA website along with the description.

2. Check-in to the NET and let us know you have an item for sale. If time permits, you will get your chance to list the item on the air.

To make an inquiry or purchase an item, call in after we read the description. If the listing party is available, we will ask that you move over to a simplex channel or you agree to some other contact to work-out the deal.

So, get that stuff out of the closet, get the info to Charlie's crew, and join the Net.

Contesting Contacts And Procedures

Pat Coyle, KG6JSL

Following Bill Hillendahl's excellent presentation of contesting at the May meeting, Jim, K6HKY, brought up the excellent question of whether the casual, non-contesting participant was wasting the time of the serious contesters. In other words, can a casual ham make some contacts during a contest and have those contacts count for the contestee, without the casual ham filing logs.

I contacted ARRL with that very question for clarification. The ARRL replied that the contesters get the benefit of contacts, even if we do not submit any logs to the contest.

So, feel free to participate in the contest without the necessity of filing logs, or costing the serious contestee time, effort and points.

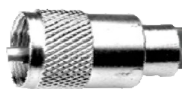
Contest participation is excellent practice and training and lots of fun as well. Something is going on every weekend. Check the Contest Corner that is published in Short Skip.

Most important is to just listen for a while. You will get the flavor and flow of the exchanges, and quickly discern the good operators you want to emulate. Some contests are high powered, "big gun" events, others are more casual. Take your pick.

There must be an exchange of information to be a valid contact. Most require an RST (Readability, Strength, Tone[for CW]) report. "Serial" means the number of the contact you have made, ie, if this is your first contact, your number is 01, 02, etc.

So fire up your rig and join in. You might also keep your own log—years later it is interesting to look back and see what contacts you have made.

Who knows, maybe we can institute our own DX award for the member who has the most distant contact from month to month. I'll bring it up at the next meeting.





Come Join SCRA at Field Day 2014

June 27, 28, 29

ALERT!! Field Day is just a few weeks away!! We will again be having Field Day at the Youth Community Park (aka “the skateboard park”), 1725 Fulton Rd, in Santa Rosa (across the street from Piner High School). As hams, it has been said that the world is our playground, so what better place to have Field Day than in a public park. Field Day is one of our best opportunities to demonstrate amateur radio to the public.

We have decided to operate as a “2A” classification, meaning that we will have two HF transmitters, one on CW and one on SSB. There will also be a VHF/UHF/Satellite station and a Get-On-The-Air, or GOTA station.

We I encourage all of our recently-licensed hams and even those old-timers that have not had an opportunity to get on the HF bands in the last year to give the GOTA station a try.

Operators - We need operators, so if you are interested in operating any of these stations, please contact the appropriate station captain:

- SSB – Dennis Colthurst, KI6REO
- CW – Frank Oddy, NQ6E or John Breckenridge, WB6FRZ
- VHF/UHF/Satellite – Bob Arthur, KG6ZDN
- GOTA – Doug Payne, KF6LMB

Also, there will be an public information table to acquaint visitors with what we are doing. If you can help staff that table or can volunteer to be a “tour guide” to show visitors around our Field Day site, please contact Darryl Paule, KI6MSP.

Educational Activity - The Educational Activity will kick off at 2pm on Saturday, June 28. We will be building portable 2m Yagis. It is quick and easy to deploy and a good choice for public service work. If you are interested in building one, please contact me, Brian Torr, N6IYY.

Dinner - And don't forget about dinner Saturday evening at about 6pm. We will be asking for a \$7 donation at the door. Please let us know if you will be joining us for dinner so we can be sure and have enough food for all.

Antenna Maintenance Class - In preparation for Field Day, we will have a class on June 14th to practice assembling the club's TH-6 tri-band beam and to perform some maintenance on the beam. If you are interested in seeing how such an antenna goes together, and especially if you will be helping us set up on Friday, June 27th, this would be a good class to attend. The class starts at 9am at the home of John Breckenridge, WB6FRZ. The address is 574 Wild Oak Drve in Windsor.

There will be a hot-air balloon festival that same day, June 14th in Windsor, so please consider car pooling.

Setup - Setup for Field Day will begin Friday afternoon, about 4:30pm, on June 27th at Youth Community Park. Our goal will be to get all the HF antennas and the tents set up by nightfall. If you can help with this setup, please do so.

Field Day Operating – The actual operating begins at 11am on Saturday, June 28 and continues through 11am on Sunday, June 29. We hope as many members and guests as possible can join us to operate, help log, be a tour guide, or just visit.

Like Trains? If you are into trains, there will be an extra treat at Field Day this year. The Redwood Empire Live Steamers (<http://redwoodempire.org/>) will be running their trains on both Saturday and Sunday. So there will be lots of activity around. Come and check it out!

Team Effort - As always, Field Day is a team effort, If you can help in any way, or would like to put your name down for dinner or the educational activity, please let me know.

Hope to see you all there!

Brian Torr, N6IYY
Tel: (707) 575-5871
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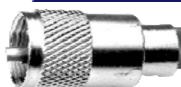
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